

# Easement

B-3284

B-3284 - B-3286  
16-2 W. Cross St. (North side)  
Baltimore, Md.  
Private access

1850-1890's

10-16 W. Cross St. is a group of four, two story plus attic, two bay wide brick "half houses," houses only one room deep under the front half of a standard gable roof. The houses were built in the early 1850's to be rented to working class tenants. 4-8 W. Cross St. are large three story, three bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices built in the 1890's. They have recently been renovated and now serve as apartment units. 2 W. Cross St. is a three story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice built in the 1870's and which now serves a commercial function.

(Easement on 12 West Cross St.)

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3284  
MAGI 0432842504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

10-16 W. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

\_\_\_ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

\_\_\_ STRUCTURE

\_\_\_ SITE

\_\_\_ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

\_\_\_ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

\_\_\_ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

\_\_\_ IN PROCESS

\_\_\_ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

\_\_\_ UNOCCUPIED

\_\_\_ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_ YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_ NO

**PRESENT USE**

\_\_\_ AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_ COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_ EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_ ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_ GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_ INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_ MILITARY

\_\_\_ MUSEUM

\_\_\_ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_ RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_ SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_ TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

Maryland <sup>STATE</sup> 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This row of two story plus attic "half houses" was built on this site in the 1850's. Several of the houses are currently being restored.

The houses are two and a half stories in height, vary in width from 12 1/2' wide (16 W. Cross) to 13 1/2' wide (14 W. Cross). 10 W. Cross is 13' wide, and 12 W. Cross is 13'4" wide. All occupy lots 30' deep. Each house has a two story high, two bay deep rear addition. 10 W. Cross has an extra one story high, one bay deep section. The houses are constructed in common bond. The low-pitched half-gable roof has a two-tier brick cornice. Each pair of houses shares a double hooded chimney located centrally along the partition wall between the two houses.

The houses show a variety of lintel types. 10 W. Cross has common arch lintels on the first and second story window openings and no lintels on the door or attic story windows. All of the sills are brick headers. 12 W. Cross has flat wood lintels on the first and second story openings and no lintels on the attic story windows. The sills are all wood. 14 and 16 W. Cross have segmentally arched lintels with solid wood tympanums on all of the openings. The sills at 14 W. Cross are all brick header sills; those at 16 W. Cross are all wood. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash. The houses have a mixed array of door types but all have single light transoms. 10 W. Cross has a horizontally paneled door; 12 W. Cross has a panel door with upper lights; and 14 and 16 W. Cross have Victorian four panel doors. The houses sit on high basements, the entrances being reached by four stone steps at 10 and 14 W. Cross, five stone steps at 12 W. Cross, and four wood steps at 16 W. Cross. Each house has a tall rectangular basement opening located beneath the first floor window.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1850-51

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Strube

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This row of houses is quite interesting as being one of the few surviving rows of "half-houses" in the area--houses built only one room deep (under the front portion of the gable roof) with the possibility that they could be enlarged later. Such houses follow the standard design of two story plus attic type houses constructed to provide housing for the influx of workers moving into the area to work in harbor-related activities. There is one room on each floor with the narrow, tightly winding stairs located in the inside rear corner of each pair of houses. Each house has a fireplace in both the first and second floor rooms. The kitchens were located in the rear additions.

The houses were built by Henry Strube, as part of his development of the north-west corner of Charles and Cross Streets.<sup>1</sup> Strube also built a group of houses on the east side of this same block of Charles St., just north of Cross. All of the houses except for 10 W. Cross were held as rental property by thier various owners. 10 W. Cross was sold in 1867, however, to a James Shea, a laborer who lived here until 1899.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Baltimore City Land Records, Liber AWB 418, Folio 380; ED 2, Folio 375

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., Liber AM 336, Folio 169; Baltimore City Directory, 1868-9, 1887

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 13<sup>1</sup>, 13<sup>1</sup>4<sup>11</sup>, 13<sup>1</sup>7<sup>11</sup>, 12<sup>1</sup>6<sup>11</sup> x 30<sup>1</sup>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. &amp; Eccles

DATE  
5/7/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

## APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

## PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: 12 West Cross Street

Address of property: Street 12 West Cross Street

City Baltimore County \_\_\_\_\_ State Maryland Zip Code 21230

Name of historic district in which property is located: Federal Hill National Register Historic District

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)

12 West Cross Street is part of a row of two story plus attic "half houses" built on the site in the early 1850's.  
(See attached Addendum 1)

## 3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(use reverse side if necessary)

12 West Cross Street and its neighbors are quite interesting because it is one of the few surviving rows of "half houses" built in the Cross Street area in the early 1850's. These houses were all one room deep, under the front portion (See attached Addendum 2)

Date of construction (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name SHELTER BUILDERS REHAB

Street PO Box 9748

City Towson Md. Zip Code 21204

Telephone Number (during day): Area Code 301-665-1747

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.

Signature [Signature] Date 10-15-81

## For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60)The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6), ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of the district.Signature [Signature] Date 11-10-81  
State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure.☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

## 2. Description of Physical Appearance

The houses is two and one-half stories in height, and measures 13'4" wide by 28'-deep. The house has a two-story high one bay deep rear addition. The house is constructed in common bond with its immediate neighbors to the left and right, namely 10 and 14 West Cross Street. The lower-pitched half-gable roof has a two tier brick cornice. Each pair of houses shares a double hooded chimney located centrally along the party wall between the units. 12 and 10 West Cross share a chimney.

The lintels on 12 West Cross are flat wood on the first and second story window openings and no lintels on the third or attic story openings. The sills are all wood. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash. The houses shares with its neighbors the feature of having a single light transom over its door, which is a panel door with upper lights. The houses sits above a half basement, and the front door is reached by climbing five steps. There is a rectangular basement opening under the first floor window.



### 3. Statement of Significance

of the gable roof. They were built so that they could be enlarged later if necessary.

Such houses follow the standard design of two-story plus attic type houses constructed to provide housing for the influx of workers in the area to work in the harbor-related activities of the day. It is interesting that the renovation of these same houses coincides with the rebirth of the Inner Harbor of today.

There is one room on each floor of the original house, with a narrow winding staircase located in the inside rear corner of each pair of houses. Each house has a fireplace in both the first and second floor rooms. The original houses had no inside kitchens, which were added on later in the rear additions.

The houses was built, according to the Baltimore City Land Records (Liber AWB, Folio 380; ED 2, Folio 375) by a man named Henry Strube, who built a number of houses in the Cross and Charles Street areas. He built the houses on the east side of Charles north of Cross.

The houses in the row of four (10 through 16 West Cross Street) were all held as rental property for laborers, although one actually bought the property he rented at 10 West Cross Street in 1867.



12 West Cross Street-- Addendum 3

BEFORE AND AFTER FACADE RESTORATION PICTURES



5.

ST.

5.

S. HANOVER

S. CHARLES

ST.

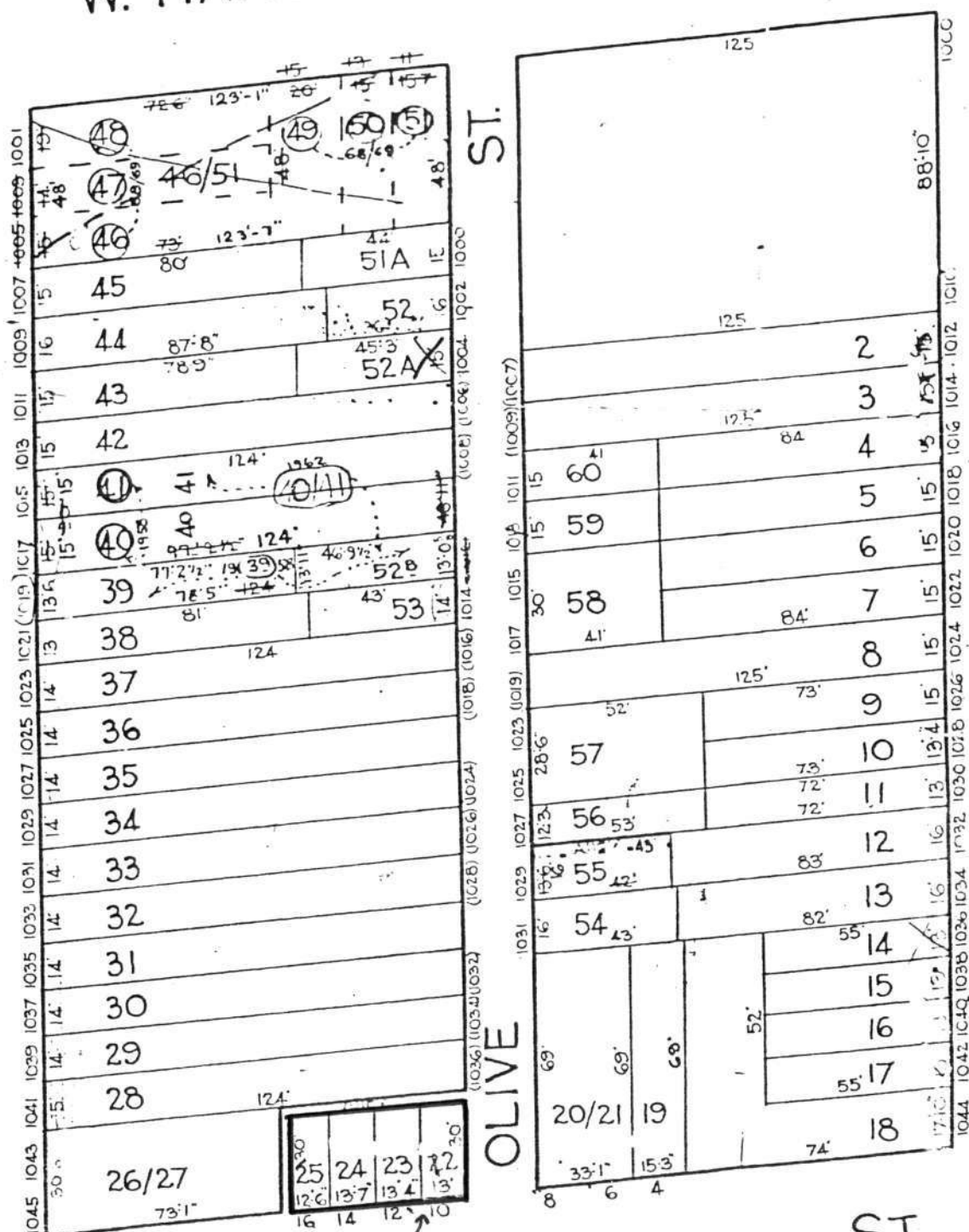
W. CROSS

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76M OF THE CITY CHARTER.  
IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER  
SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF  
DEPARTMENT OF  
BUREAU OF PL  
PROPERTY LO

WARD 23  
BLOCK  
SCALE 1 IN. = 50 FT.



B-3284  
10-16 W. Cross Street  
Block 0933 Lots 022-025  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-3284

10-16 W. Cross St.

M.E.H.

5/79

South and east elevations